



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/604,717	08/13/2003	Han-Chou Liu	ADTP0051USA	1716

27765 7590 12/14/2004

(NAIPC) NORTH AMERICA INTERNATIONAL PATENT OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 506  
MERRIFIELD, VA 22116

EXAMINER

KIM, RICHARD H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/604,717

Applicant(s)

LIU ET AL.

Examiner

Richard H Kim

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5 and 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon et al. (2003/0086255 A1) in view of Hillstrom (US 5,983,543).

Referring to claims 1, 2, Moon et al. discloses a device comprising a plurality of cold cathode fluorescent lamps installed within a housing (631); a reflection plate installed under the plurality of lamps in the housing (paragraph 40). However, the reference does not disclose a diffusion film having a plurality of apertures thereon in-stalled above the lamps for diffusing light generated by the plurality of lamps.

Hillstrom discloses a diffusion film having a plurality of apertures thereon in-stalled above the lamps for diffusing light generated by the plurality of lamps (col. 12, lines 1-6).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ a diffusion film having a plurality of apertures thereon in-stalled above the lamps for diffusing light generated by the plurality of lamps since one would be motivated "to even out light distribution" (col. 12, lines 1-3).

Referring to claims 3 and 4, Moon et al. and Hillstrom disclose the device previously recited, but fails to disclose that the diffusion film is made of metal or is of a thickness of less than .5 mm.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the diffusion film to be made of metal since metal is well known in the art to be a durable material resistant to shattering. Furthermore, having the diffusion film to be less than .5 mm is a result effective variable. As is well known in the art, it is desirable to produce a thin display. Therefore, it would be obvious to make it thinner than .5 mm in order to produce a thin liquid crystal display.

Referring to claim 5, Moon et al further discloses a diffusion sheet (paragraph 31).

Referring to claims 10-15, Moon et al. and Hillstrom disclose the device previously. However, Moon et al. fails to disclose that the apertures having different diameters/dimensions, wherein the diameter/dimension of the apertures directly above the lamps is smaller than the diameter/dimension of the apertures not directly above the lamps; or that the diameter/dimensions of the apertures are the same, wherein the diffusion film has a highest aperture packing density at an area directly over the lamps, wherein the apertures are circular, rectangular or any other shape, wherein the diffusion film is a metal film and the apertures are columns and rows of through slots arranged on the metal film.

Hillstrom discloses that the apertures are spaced to even out the light distribution (col. 12, lines 1-5).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ apertures having different diameters/dimensions, wherein the diameter/dimension of the apertures directly above the lamps is smaller than the diameter/dimension of the apertures not directly above the lamps; or that the diameter/dimensions of the apertures are the same, wherein the diffusion film has a highest

Art Unit: 2871

aperture packing density at an area directly over the lamps, wherein the apertures are circular, rectangular or any other shape, wherein the diffusion film is a metal film and the apertures are columns and rows of through slots arranged on the metal film since it is within the realm of an artisan having ordinary skill in the art to arrange or size the apertures in a pattern that would optimally even out the light distribution. Such parameters (size, shape) are result effective variables, and since Hillstrom discloses that the apertures are spaced to even out the light distribution, arranging the apertures to achieve optimum light distribution would have been obvious. Furthermore, metal is well known in the art to be a durable material resistant to shattering.

3. Claims 6-9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon et al. and Hillstrom et al., in view of Merz et al. (US 2002/0154474 A1).

Moon et al. and Hillstrom et al. disclose the device previously recited, but fails to disclose at least one metal heat-dissipating piece disposed at a periphery of the diffusion film, further comprising a heat exchange means connected with the heat-dissipating piece, wherein the heat exchange means is a heat pipe.

Merz et al. discloses at least one metal heat-dissipating piece disposed at a periphery of the diffusion film, further comprising a heat exchange means connected with the heat-dissipating piece, wherein the heat exchange means is a heat pipe (paragraph 80).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ at least one metal heat-dissipating piece disposed at a periphery of the diffusion film, further comprising a heat exchange means connected with the heat-

Art Unit: 2871

dissipating piece, wherein the heat exchange means is a heat pipe since one would be motivated to remove heat from a heat producing element (abstract), preventing heat related damaging.

***Conclusion***

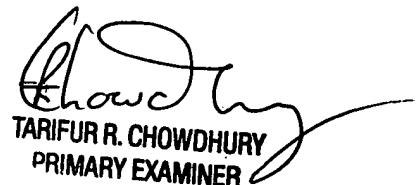
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard H Kim whose telephone number is (571)272-2294. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-6:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H Kim can be reached on (571)272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Richard H Kim  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2871

RHK

  
TARIFUR R. CHOWDHURY  
PRIMARY EXAMINER